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Charlie

Dans

Hannes
Kristjánsson

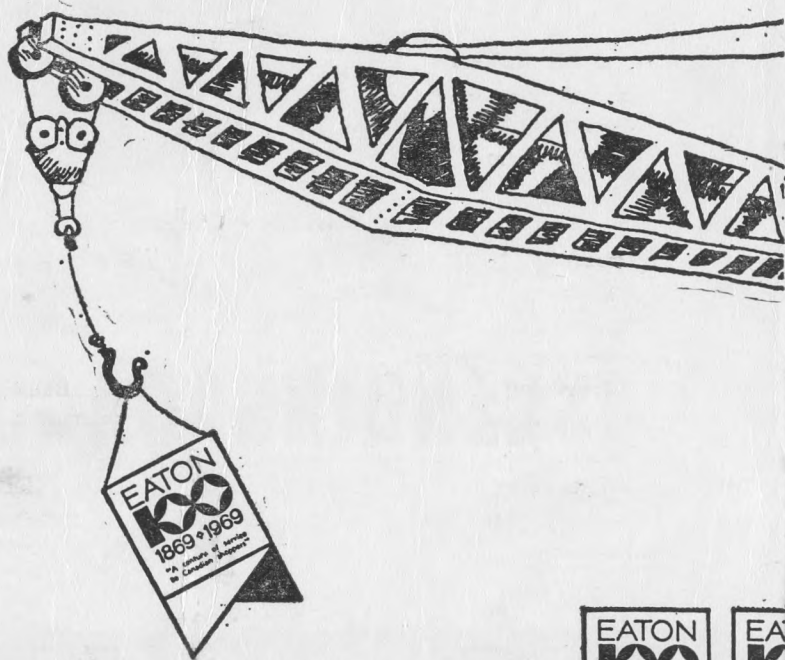
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 2nd

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd

MONDAY, AUGUST 4th

1969

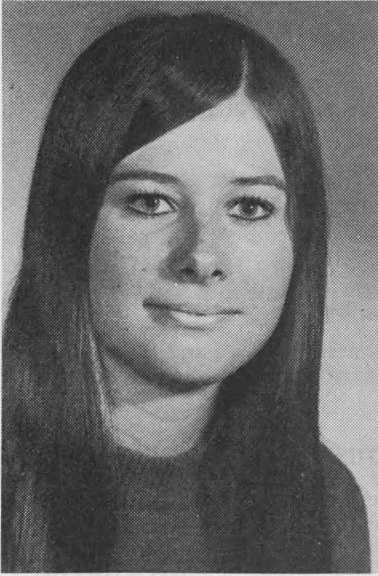
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THE ICELANDIC CELEBRATION

FROM "*The Icelandic People in Manitoba*"

BY W. KRISTJANSON

The people of Icelandic extraction in Canada and in the United States hold an annual celebration on what is called *Islendingadagurinn*, or "Icelanders' Day", on which occasion they pay tribute in speech and verse to the land of their origin and to the country that is now their own.

The first Icelandic community celebration in America was the impressive Millennial observance at Milwaukee on August 2, 1874, commemorating a thousand years of settlement of Iceland, against a background of the country's initial victory in its struggle for constitutional government. The first Icelandic celebration in Winnipeg was held on August 2, 1890.

The holding of an Icelandic celebration was editorially advocated in *Heimskringla* in the summer of 1888, the writer

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN 1969

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th
at Gimli.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2nd:

- 10:00 a.m. A ten mile road race from Winnipeg Beach to Gimli Park. Registration of competitors will begin at 9:15 a.m. at Hwy. 9 and 229 Winnipeg Beach.
- 9:00 p.m. **Gimli Youth Club** dance in the Gimli Park Pavilion, featuring the **Mongrels**.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd:

- 10:00 a.m. Interlake baseball tournament at GIMLI COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL FIELD sponsored by the **Gimli Viking Ball Club**.
- 1:00 p.m. **Gimli Kinsmen** barbecue and games at GIMLI BEACH.
- 3:30 p.m. Unveiling of Vilhjálmur Stefansson monument at ARNES (about 10 miles to the north of Gimli on Hwy. 9).
- 9:00 p.m. A Hootenanny in the GIMLI PARK PAVILION featuring the **Three Blind Mice plus One**.
- 12:00 Midnight dance in the GIMLI PARK PAVILION, featuring the **Sugar and Spice** orchestra.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4th:

- 10:00 a.m. The Icelandic Festival Parade will leave the JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
- 11:00 a.m. Children's and Special Event Races, GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE. For details see page 8.
- 12: noon Track and Field Competition, endorsed by Manitoba Track and Field Association, GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE. For details see page 9.
- 1:00 p.m. A band concert in GIMLI PARK given by the **Training Command Band C.F.B. Winnipeg**. Also, at this time a continuous showing of a film on Iceland will start at the GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE and run through the afternoon.

Continued on page 6

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN 1969

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

Laugardag, sunnudag og mánudag 2., 3., og 4. ágúst 1969

að Gimli

LAUGARDAGUR, 2. ÁGÚST:

- 10:00 f.h. Hefst tíu mílna þolhlaup frá Winnipeg Beach til Gimli Park; skráning keppenda hefst á vegamótunum Hwy. 9 og 29 á Winnipeg Beach kl. 9:15 f.h.
- 9:00 e.h. Heldur **Gimli Youth Club** danssskemmtun í GIMLI PARK PAVILION; „MONGRELS“ hljómsveitin leikur fyrir dansinum.

SUNNUDAGUR 3. ÁGÚST:

- 10:00 f.h. Fer fram keppni í baseball fyrir félög af millivatnasvæðinu; kappleikirnir fara fram á íþróttaleikvangi GIMLI COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL undir umsjón **Gimli Viking Club**.
- 3:30 e.h. Verður afhjúpaður minnisvarði um Vilhjálm Stefánsson að Árnesi (minnisvarðinn er staðsettur um það bil 10 mílur norður frá Gimli á Hwy.9).
- 9:00 e.h. Gleðimót (Hootenanny) í GIMLI PARK PAVILION; **Three Blind Mice plus One** annast hljóðfæraleik.
- 12:00 Miðnættis hefst lagnættisdans í GIMLI PARK PAVILION við undirleik **Sugar and Spice** hljómsveitarnnar.

MÁNUDAGUR, 4. ÁGÚST:

- 10:00 f.h. Hefst skruðför frá JOHNSON MEMORIAL SJÚKRAHÚSINU.
- 11:00 f.h. Kapphlaup barna og gifts fólks. GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE. Sjá íþróttaskrá á bls. 8.
- 12:00 Hádegis íþróttakeppni stjórnað af **Manitoba Track and Field Association**. GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE. Sjá íþróttaskrá á bls. 9.
- 1:00 e.h. Verða haldnir hljómleikar í GIMLI PARK. **The Training Command Band C.F.B.**, frá Winnipeg leikur. Samtímis hljómleikunum hefst samfelld kvikmyndasýning um Ísland í GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE, og heldur sú sýning áfram það sem eftir er dagsins.

Framhald á bls. 7.

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN 1969

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

Continued from page 4

MONDAY, AUGUST 4th:

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

2:00 p.m. The main program of the Festival will begin in GIMLI PARK. This year's program will consist of the following items:

1. O Canada; Ó, Guð vors lands
2. Chairman's remarksJ. F. Kristjánsson
3. Address of the FjallkonaMrs. Ingibjörg Lillian Asgeirson
4. Introduction of guests of honor
5. Toast to CanadaMr. Frank M. Arnason
6. Vocal SoloMr. R. P. Frederickson
accompanied on the piano by Miss Snjólaug Sigurdson
7. Toast to IcelandDr. Richard Beck
8. The Gimli Children's ChoirConductor: Mrs. Shirley Johnson
9. God Save the Queen

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

- 7:30 p.m.** Community singing in GIMLI PARK under the direction of Mr. R. P. Frederickson with Mrs. Jóna Kristjanson accompanying on the piano.
- 8:00 p.m.** The Icelandic Festival Beauty contest in Gimli Park. Introduction of candidates and announcement of winners. Judges: Mr. Don Robertson, Mr. Don Williams and Mrs. Norma Vadeboncoeur.
- 10:00 p.m.** — **2:00 a.m.** Dance in the GIMLI PARK PAVILION featuring Johnny and his Musical Mates.

SPECIAL FESTIVAL FEATURE. GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE, RECREATION HALL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd and MONDAY, AUGUST 4th.

Open from 1.00 p.m. both days. A display of creative works by artists of Icelandic ancestry, gathered by Professor Gissur Eliasson.

The exhibition will include original paintings, sculpture, ceramics, photography and creative arts.

A collection of traditional and contemporary literary works will also be shown.

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN 1969

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

Framhald frá bls. 5.

MÁNUDAGUR 4. ÁGÚST

HÁTÍÐARSKRÁ

2:00 e.h. Hefst aðalhátíð Íslendingadagsins í GIMLI PARK, og verður hún sem hér segir:

1. O Canada; Ó, Guð vors lands
2. Ávarpsorð forseta ÍslendingadagsinsJ. F. Kristjánsson
3. Ávarp fjallkonunnarMrs. Ingibjörg Lillian Ásgeirson
4. Kynnings heiðursgesta
5. Minni KanadaFrank M. Arnason
6. EinsöngurR. P. Frederickson
7. Minni ÍslandsDr. Richard Beck
8. Barnakór GimliSöngstjóri: frú Shirley Johnson
9. God Save the Queen

KVÖLDSKEMMTANIR

- 7:30 e.h.** Fer fram samsöngur í GIMLI PARK undir stjórn R. P. Frederickson; frú Jóna Kristjánson annast undirleik.
- 8:00 e.h.** Verður haldin hin árlega fegurðarsamkeppni Íslendingadagsins í GIMLI PARK, þátttakendur og sigurvearar verða kynntir. Dómarar í þessari keppni verða þau **Don Robertson**, **Don Williams** og frú **Norma Vadeboncoeur**.
- 10:00 e.h.** Leikur Riverton hljómsveitin, **JOHNNY AND HIS MUSICAL MATES** fyrir dansi í GIMLI PARK PAVILION. Dansinum lýkur kl. 2:00 að morgni.

SÉRSTÖK HÁTÍÐARBRIGÐI.

GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE, RECREATION HALL.

SUNNUDAGUR 3. ÁGÚST og MÁNUDAGUR 4. ÁGÚST.

Opin frá kl. 1 e.h. báða daga. Sýning á verkum listamanna af íslenskum ættum. Prófessor Gissur Eliasson safnaði.

Á sýningunni verða frumleg málverk, höggmyndir, leirmunir ljósmyndir og aðrir listmunir.

Sýnishorn eldri og yngri bókmennta verður einnig á sýningunni.

CHILDRENS AND SPECIAL EVENT RACES:

MONDAY, AUGUST 4th:

Starting at 11.00 a.m.

Note new location at GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE, across the street,
north of Gimli Park.

Boys	Girls	Distance	Awards		
			1st	2nd	3rd
5 yrs. and under	5 yrs. and under	40 yds.	\$.75	\$.50	\$.25
6 yrs.	6 yrs.	50 yds.	.75	.50	.25
7 yrs.	7 yrs.	50 yds.	.75	.50	.25
8 yrs.	8 yrs.	60 yds.	1.00	.75	.50
9 yrs.	9 yrs.	60 yds.	1.00	.75	.50
10 yrs.	10 yrs.	60 yds.	1.00	.75	.50
11 yrs.	11 yrs.	75 yds.	1.25	1.00	.75
12 yrs.	12 yrs.	75 yds.	1.25	1.00	.75
13 yrs.	13 yrs.	75 yds.	1.25	1.00	.75

Married men

Married women

100 years and under 95 years and under 100 yards 2.00 1.50 1.00

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JUVENILE AND OPEN TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2nd:

Special attention is called to the 10 mile road race, Juveniles and Mens Open, on Saturday morning, August 2nd at 10:00 a.m. The race will be from Winnipeg Beach to Gimli Park; registration of participants will commence at 9:15 a.m. at the junction of Hwy. 9 and 229 at Winnipeg Beach.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4th:

AT GIMLI TRAINING CENTRE, across the street, north of Gimli Park. Track and field events beginning at 12 o'clock noon. This competition is endorsed and officiated by the Manitoba Track and and Field Association in accordance with the rules of the International Amateur Association.

Seven major trophies will be awarded, to be held for one year by the winners as follows:

Oddson Shield. Club or school with highest point standing in all juvenile and open men's and women's events including 10 mile road and relay races.

Hanson Trophy. Individual winner of mens open events.

Einar B. Johnson Trophy. Individual winner of mens open track events.

Sveinn Sigfússon Trophy: Individual winner of men's juvenile events.

Janet Maddin Trophy. Individual winner of womens open events.

Dr. Aldis E. Thorlakson Wengel Trophy. Individual winner of womens juvenile events.

Icelandic Canadian Club Trophy. Winner of ten mile road race.

Scoring will be in accordance with the following table.

PLACE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
POINTS	10	8	6	4	2	1

Relay events will not count towards individual point scores, but will be considered in breaking ties.

Mens Juvenile & Open	Women Juvenile & Open
100 Meters	100 Meters
200 Meters	200 Meters
400 Meters	400 Meters
800 Meters	800 Meters
1500 Meters	1500 Meters
3000 Meters	
4 x 100M Relay	4 x 100M Relay
4 x 200M Relay	4 x 200M Relay
Shot Put	Shot Put
High Jump	High Jump
Long Jump	Long Jump

The sponsors reserve the right to cancel any event in which there are not more than three competitors.

Note — All competitors compete at their own risk.

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probably being Eggert Johannsson. Several people, the writer says, have advocated such an observance, after the fashion of other ethnic groups in the country. The Icelandic people he remarks, are small in numbers, only a few thousand scattered here and there among many millions and they should take every possible step that would unite them in thought and feeling. A national celebration would do this. Furthermore, the Icelanders have no cause to be ashamed of their racial origin. "The discovery of Vinland, the Republic of the Saga heroes, and their literature are jewels in the crown of the Icelandic nation which the filching hand of time can neither steal nor hide."

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To Jon Olafsson the poet belongs the credit for securing action in the matter. Shortly after his arrival in Winnipeg, in 1890, he contributed to *Logberg* an article of considerable length, entitled "Onward, Onward, Icelanders", in which he urged that a national celebration be held that summer, on August 2, the date of the Millennial celebration. *Heimskringla* did not think the day suitable because of the harvesting and haying season, but conceded that it would do for once. The two Icelandic weeklies joined forces in strong support of the project, and urged various Icelandic associations in the city to send representatives to form a committee. The committee as

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formed included Reverend Jon Bjarnason, Einar Hjorleifsson, Jon Olafsson, Eggert Johannsson, Gestur Palsson, Sigtryggur Jonasson, and W. H. Paulson.

A successful celebration was held on August 2, 1890, in Victoria Gardens. The Icelandic community in Winnipeg then

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numbered some three thousand people, one-tenth of the entire population of the city, and it was a large procession that formed upon the grounds south of the First Lutheran church, at the corner of Ross and Nena streets. Approximately forty carriages had been provided for the women and children. The

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parade, headed by the Infantry School band, started about 10 a.m., and travelled east on Ross street; south on Isabel; east on Notre Dame Avenue and Portage Avenue; north on Main; east on Rupert street, and so to the park.

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The program, with toasts to Iceland and to America, original poems, addresses, singing, and sports, set a high standard of excellence as well as a pattern for future celebrations. Guests of honor included the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Schultz;

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Canada

the Attorney-General, Honorable Isaac Campbell, and the American consul, Mr. Taylor, and these men paid tribute to the Icelandic people. The main speakers were Reverend Bjarnason, Einar Hjorleifsson, Jon Olafsson, and Eggert Johannsson. Olafsson and Hjorleifsson delivered original poems. The sports program included running, jumping, Icelandic wrestling, and a boat-race. Community singing followed, with dancing in the evening.

Visitors from the Icelandic settlements in Manitoba and North Dakota helped to swell the attendance and the celebration was one of the outstanding social events in Winnipeg in that

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year. The English-language papers devoted considerable space to their account of the day and were highly complimentary to the Icelandic people. *The Free Press* pointed out that in comparison with Iceland's cultural tradition of a thousand years, Canada was scarcely out of her infancy, and remarked that the Icelandic settlers would not be less but more thought of by all intelligent people for possessing pride in their racial origin. *The Winnipeg Daily Tribune* noted that the procession was the largest that had been seen on the streets of Winnipeg, and that the number of Icelanders in the city was a matter of revelation and wonderment. The *Tribune* also dwelt on the cultural

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achievement of the Icelandic people and spoke of their characteristics of thrift, industry, honesty, and loyalty, all of which had become a by-word.

The celebration of 1890 attracted attention to the Icelandic people, and also enhanced their own appreciation of their national heritage. It brought the various Icelandic communities closer together. People met and exchanged news, and on their return they had much to relate, and those unable to attend followed the accounts in the papers with keen interest.

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WINNIPEG

THE ICELANDIC CELEBRATION TODAY

The Icelandic Celebration, first held in Winnipeg in 1890 and at Gimli since 1932, is a special event on the Icelandic calendar. The observance of the day coincides with the civic holiday in Winnipeg and buses and cars from the city, and cars from most of the Icelandic communities in the Interlake district—from Selkirk, Riverton, Arborg, Lundar, Ashern, and other points—converge on Gimli that day. Formerly, Argyle and North Dakota were represented. On special occasions, such as the diamond jubilee of the celebration in 1949, the attendance has been as high as four thousand, but more often in recent years it has been 1,500 to 2,000.

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The pattern set at Victoria Gardens in 1890 has been followed over the period of years, with some innovations. The Fjallkona was first featured in 1924. The program traditionally includes a brief address of welcome from the Fjallkona (the Maid of the Mountains); greetings from Iceland, conveyed by the Icelandic consul in Winnipeg; greetings from the Province of Manitoba; toasts to Iceland and Canada; choral music; sports;

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a procession to the pioneer memorial; community singing at twilight, and dancing in the evening. In recent years the day has begun with a procession of automobiles and floats through the town, with the Fjallkona conspicuous in the van.

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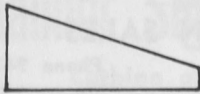
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white gown, green robe trimmed with ermine, high-crowned head-dress of white veil falling over the shoulders to the waist, and gold belt, she is the presiding genius of the day. Two maids of honor, formerly clad in the plain Icelandic costume with tasselled skull cap, are now dressed in white. In years gone by, when visitors from North Dakota attended, these maids of honor were known as Miss Canada and Miss America.

The themes of the toasts to Iceland, delivered in Icelandic, are traditionally the beauty of the Icelandic landscape, the

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riches of Icelandic literature, and Iceland today. The toasts to Canada, in English, would grace any Canada Day celebration. "Canada has opened her arms to us, this beautiful land of the future, and taken possession of our minds, and hearts, and to her we owe more duties than to learn the English language and pay taxes when the times are good", said Dr. Jon Stefansson in 1935. Traditionally, one of these toasts is in the form of an original poem.

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The 75th anniversary of the settlement of New Iceland was commemorated at the 1950 celebration. Rector Palmi Hannesson, special representative of the Icelandic government, expressed appreciation of the credit which the Icelandic settlers in America had earned for the Icelandic people. Fjallkona on this occasion was Mrs. A. N. Sommerville (née Steinunn J. Stefanson), daughter of one of the pioneers of 1875, and speakers at the divine service held on the preceding day were

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Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson, nephew of Dr. Jon Bjarnason, and Reverend Philip M. Petursson, nephew of Dr. Rognvaldur Petursson.

Formerly, the sports events were a prominent feature of the day, and for many years the program included, besides track and field events, Icelandic wrestling, middle distance running, bicycle racing, archery, and baseball. Athletic clubs from Winnipeg, Selkirk, Lundar, Argyle and Gimli, and individuals from other places competed, and a high standard was set in the period from 1905 to 1940 by such outstanding athletes as Kristjan Backman, Magnus Kelly, the brothers Jack and Ben Baldwin, Einar Johnson, Bjorgvin Stefansson, A. O. (Gusti) Magnusson, Sveinn Sigfusson, and others. The coveted trophies were the Oddson Shield for club competition, and the Hanson

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The Icelandic celebration is an occasion for reunions. Relatives and friends and acquaintances who may not have seen each other for a year or a day meet and talk. The scene is colorful and animated. Also, the celebration is an occasion for Icelandic dishes, and after the program the people stream to the pavilion for a repast of rullupylsa, Icelandic brown bread, skyr, vinarterta, rolled pancakes, and a cup of *molakaffi* (coffee with lump sugar).

The original purpose of the celebration was to commemorate the granting of a constitution to Iceland in 1874, but in time it was to honor the pioneers. A pioneers' pavilion has been erected near the speakers' platform, in the shade of the stately evergreens.

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Today, the celebration is primarily a pleasurable outing but the deeper significance of this festive occasion has not been dismissed from the mind. The sacrifices and the achievements of the pioneers are recalled. Moreover, the celebration has had a cultural significance; it did much for the development of a high standard of sports and athletics in the Icelandic communities; it long served as a bond between the larger Icelandic

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settlements in Manitoba; it has helped to maintain among the Canadian born a sympathetic consciousness of Iceland, and to maintain a sense of kinship among the people of Icelandic origin in Canada.

The seventy-fifth Icelandic celebration was held on August 3, 1964, with the Prime Minister of Iceland, Dr Bjarni Benediktsson, a guest of honor and the main speaker. The Prime

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Minister was an ambassador of good will.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, the President of Iceland, His Excellency Asgeir Asgeirsson, was the guest of honor and delivered the toast to Iceland.

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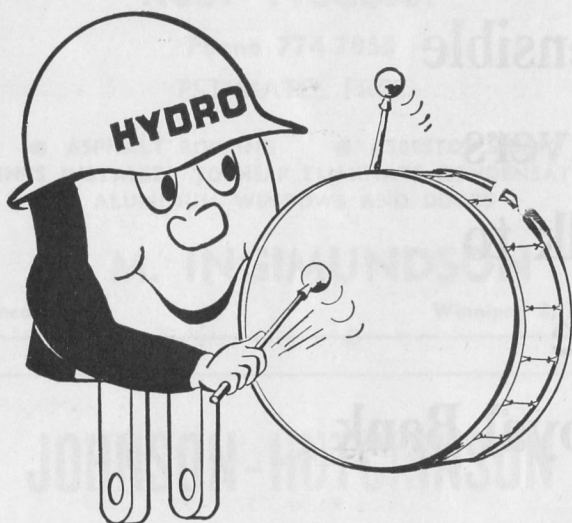
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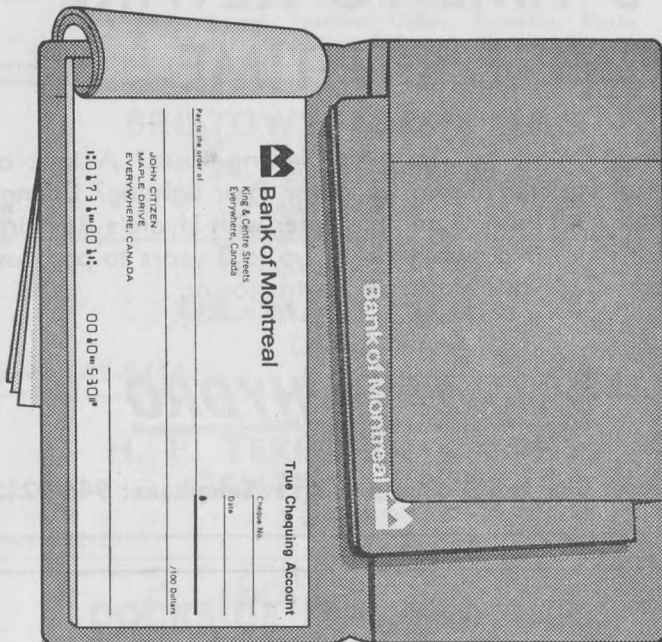
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